

Current Opinion in Cell Biology

Volume 11 1999

Reviews of all advances
Evaluation of key references
Comprehensive listing of papers

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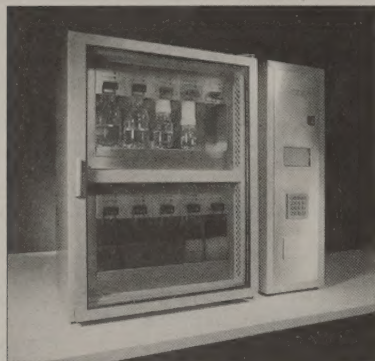
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Product News

Cellsense EMERIS respirometer



A validation process for the **Cellsense EMERIS respirometer** carried out at AstraZeneca's Brixham Environmental Laboratory has demonstrated the system to be a versatile and high precision laboratory tool for the performance of biodegradation tests. The Cellsense EMERIS determines changes in the oxygen demand of

biological materials, reflecting toxicity or biodegradability. It is a micro-processor-based respirometer that operates 20 individually controlled channels housed in two environmental cabinets. The two cabinets, which can be operated simultaneously from a single control system, feature individual temperature control and house up to 10 channels each. Designed for both short and long term studies, the Cellsense EMERIS is capable of unattended operation for 2500 hours. Real time data is available on screen throughout, enabling the user to determine whether a test needs to run for the originally specified time, or whether sufficient data have been collected to allow cessation. This particular benefit to industry provides a faster response in the development of new products, with consequences for cost containment.

Circle number 1 on reader response card.

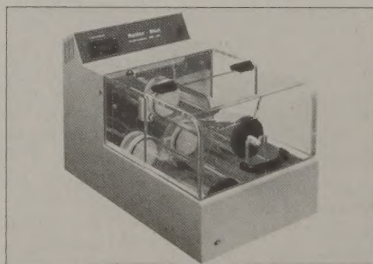
Manual microarrayer system



Vision Engineering's **Mantis®** is a newly launched ergonomic workstation for manual spotting of DNA samples. Mantis is built into the **genSTATION™ 3XL** manual microarrayer system, where its magnification, resolution and large viewing area enhance operator precision and dexterity. It is the latest in a line of bench-top workstations developed by GENPAK and combines all the elements necessary for preparing microarrays by hand, including storage for blank and printed slides, spotting pin and tool storage, and a four-stage cleaning system.

Circle number 2 on reader response card.

Hybridisation incubator



The **Roller-Blot HB-3D hybridisation incubator**, by **Techne**, was designed for today's busy molecular laboratory. It is suitable for most blotting techniques, including Southern and western blots, using either radioactive or fluorescent probes. This compact, easy to use, bench standing unit accommodates a full range of hybridisation vessels held within the easy viewing heated chamber. Access to the chamber is via a heavy duty lift up canopy which gives extra protection during use. Precise control of the heated chamber ensures consistently accurate results.

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In Brief

VoxBlast RealTime™

VayTek Inc has developed a powerful hardware/software package for 3D volume visualisation, measurement and manipulation. **VoxBlast** accepts stacks of registered 2D images and creates 3D projections from any viewpoint using an alpha blending or surface rendering algorithm. It includes tools for pseudocolouring, transparency, lighting, 2D and 3D measurements and 2D slice viewing. The new RealTime version provides all the functionality of previous versions, but with greatly enhanced speed. It allows researchers to zoom in, to rotate, and to adjust the opacity in a region of interest in real time.

Circle number 4 on reader response card.

M420 Macroscope

The **LEICA M420 Macroscope**, with 5:1 or 6:1 zoom, typifies the outstanding quality attainable with the latest optical technology. With its vertical beam path, its apochromatic zoom objective and its extremely high resolution, it is the ideal instrument for faithful photography, parallax-free measurement and correct polarisation colours. The precise course/fine focusing mechanism and motor-focusing system open up new application possibilities and improved ergonomics bring increased efficiency. The built-in photo/video tube introduces decisive advantages for digital imaging, video and photography.

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Plant Maxi kit

The **DNeasy™ Plant Maxi kit** from **QIAGEN** allows rapid purification of total cellular DNA from up to 1 g of plant tissue. High-quality DNA is isolated from a wide range of plant species and tissue types, including troublesome sources rich in polysaccharides, polyphenols and other secondary metabolites. Typical yields of 30 µg (*Arabidopsis*) to 260 µg (wheat) of DNA are obtained depending on genome size and ploidy. The easy spin procedure provides rapid homogenisation of lysed samples and efficient removal of cell debris.

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A new series of papers on high throughput screening applications and protocols is available free from **NEN® Life Science Products**. **Flashplate® Files #11-14** describe new methods and results for various **Flashplate 96- and 384-well assay platforms**. Written by industry researchers and **NEN** scientists, paper topics include: kinase assays; assay miniaturisation; and phosphorylation assays on **Nickel Chelate FlashPlate PLUS**. Complete sets of **FlashPlate Files** are available free to interested readers.

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